Region-wide Restoration Area

June 2021

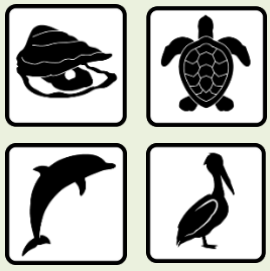
WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Region-wide Restoration Area are:

- Amy Hunter, Alabama
- Gareth Leonard, Florida
- Lawrence B. "Bren" Haase, Louisiana
- Chris Wells, Mississippi
- Angela Sunley, Texas
- Ashley Mills, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Jamie Schubert, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Ron Howard, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Timothy Landers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

WHAT WE DO

Our work within the Region-wide Restoration Area is intended to replenish and protect targeted marine resources (marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and oysters) affected by the spill which often live and migrate across broad jurisdictional boundaries.



RECENT ACTIVITIES

We continue to oversee implementation and monitoring of Early Restoration projects. The Region-wide Trustee Implementation Group (RW TIG) released its Draft Restoration Plan 1 in March 2021. The plan includes nearly $100 million for 11 proposed projects for birds, sea turtles, oysters, and marine mammals. The RW TIG anticipates finalizing Restoration Plan 1 by fall 2021.

Region-wide Restoration Area

For more information, visit www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/regionwide

RESTORATION PROJECTS BY GOAL AND TYPE

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Enhanced Management of Avian Breeding Habitat Injured by Response Activities in the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi	Beach-nesting bird habitats were harmed by oil spill response activities. Placing markers at sensitive nesting sites is intended to protect eggs, chicks, and adults. The project is located across three Gulf states: Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. In Florida, site enhancements are located in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties. In Alabama, sites are located in Baldwin and Mobile counties. In Mississippi, sites are located in Jackson and Harrison counties. DOI and Florida are working together to implement this project.	✓	$1.8M
Improving Habitat Injured by Spill Response: Restoring the Night Sky	Public area lighting deters female sea turtles from reaching their natural beach habitat and reduces successful nesting. The lighting also disrupts the migration of baby sea turtles toward the ocean. This project retrofits existing lighting to make it more sea-turtle friendly at locations in Florida and Alabama. DOI along with Alabama and Florida are working together to implement this project.	⟳	$3.8M
Sea Turtle Early Restoration Project	The Region-wide TIG portion of this project includes two complementary components that address threats to sea turtles in the marine environment: (1) Enhancement of the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network; and (2) Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl bycatch reduction. Together, these components include enhancement of existing programs involved in stranding work; funding for additional staff, training, supplies, equipment, and vehicles for agencies and organizations; and expansion of NOAA's Gear Monitoring Team and Southeast Shrimp Trawl Fisheries Observer Program to improve compliance with Turtle Excluder Device regulations for the purpose of reducing incidental takes of sea turtles during the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery season. NOAA is the lead implementing Trustee for the Region-wide portion of this project.	⟳	$25M
MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT			
Colonial Waterbird (CWB) Monitoring	This MAM Activity is intended as one means by which Trustees will document and partially evaluate CWB breeding population performance at a Region-wide scale. It is envisioned that these efforts would be fully integrated with established, ongoing, smaller-scale monitoring programs, thereby providing Trustees with a more comprehensive means to characterize benefits generated from DWH bird restoration activities. Other potential benefits associated with this MAM activity include: (1) population trend data; (2) documented outcomes of restoration projects; and (3) data to partially inform future restoration project decision-making.	⟳	$2.5M

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring/O&M ✓ Complete